

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. New Claims 5-7 have been added. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indicated allowability of Claim 4. Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten Claim 4 into independent form including the limitations of base Claim 1. Applicant has not incorporated the limitations of dependent Claim 2 as it is submitted that said limitations are not necessary to the patentability of the coil spring feature found in Claim 4.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3 were rejected as obvious over Shaw (U.S. Patent No. 6,575,606) in view of JP 62-145898. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant's independent Claim 1, as amended, recites a lamp unit for an image projector having a projector body provided with a connector. A cable 20 extends outside a lamp box. The cable has a connector 21 at an end thereof for supplying electric power to the lamp body 10. The lamp body 10 receives electric power from the projector body by connecting the connector 21 of the cable 20 to the connector 6 of the projector body. A lamp box includes two posts 65a, 65b, in which the cable is fixed by being inserted into the space between the two posts and being wound around the two posts.

In view of Applicant's amended Claim 1, it is clear that the connector 21 and cable 20 extend out of the lamp box in order to be coupled to the connector 6 of the projector body 1.

By contrast, the Examiner's combination of Shaw in view of JP '898 does not meet the limitations of Applicant's Claim 1. In particular, as shown in Figures 2, 4 and 5 of Shaw, the power cord (cable) 12 includes a plug at one end thereof that is secured into a power supply bracket 21 that is part of the lamp box 30. As such, the cable does not extend out of the lamp box in order to connect it to the projector body. More importantly, however, because the plug 12 is secured in the bracket 21, in Shaw, there is no need to utilize any posts to fix the cable within the lamp box 30. That is because the cable is already fixed at its plug end via the bracket 21 and the screwed connection 211 (Column 2, lines 59-60). Thus, Shaw does not suffer the disadvantages noted in Applicant's background section wherein pulling of the cable can disadvantageously dislodge or misalign the lamp (see page 2, first paragraph).

Regarding JP '898, the use of bosses 3, 4, 5 are not necessary inside Shaw's lamp box 30 and would unnecessarily increase the manufacturing cost and expense of Shaw's lamp box 30. As such, one skilled in this art is provided with no motivation to make the combination noted in the Office Action. Only by the use of impermissible hindsight to meet Applicant's claimed invention is such a combination made.

In summary, because Shaw secures the end of cable 12 in the power supply bracket 21 contained in the lamp box, there is no need to provide posts as described in Applicant's invention to secure a cable which extends out of the housing such that it can be connected to the projector body. Accordingly, Applicant submits independent Claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Shaw in view of JP '898, even if such a combination were proper. Moreover, Claims 2 and 3 depend from Claim 1 and are also submitted to be patentable for the reasons set forth above.

Finally, Applicant has added new independent Claim 7, which includes all of the limitations of amended Claim 1 and further notes that the "small space" between the two posts is "sized to be smaller than a cross-section of the cable" such that the cable is fixed by "being frictionally inserted into the space between the two posts". Support for this claimed spacing and frictional engagement is found on page 9, lines 3-6 and 14-22, for example. By contrast, as can be clearly seen from all of the figures in JP '898, the spacing between the bosses 3, 4, 5 is not sized to be smaller than a cross-section of the cable. As a result, the cable is not fixed by being frictionally inserted into the space.

While JP '898 may strive to secure the power supply cord 2 via the "friction at the turned portion" and the serpentine weaving of the power cord, it is still disadvantageously subject to movement since it is not fixed between two

posts. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits independent Claim 7 is also patentable over the cited references.

Lastly, Applicant acknowledges the indication of their claim for foreign priority and submits herewith a certified copy of the Japanese priority document.

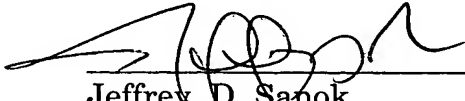
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits Claims 1-7 are in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010482.54972US).

Respectfully submitted,

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